

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: June 5, 2001

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KECN-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-54)

TO: John Piccininni
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Habitat Enhancement and Protection on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation

Project No: 1997-011-00

Work Order No: 0002565

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis
(See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 1.16 Spawning Habitat Enhancements, 1.8 Bank Protection through Vegetation Management, 2.1 Maintain Healthy Riparian Plant Communities, 4.2 Protect Springs, 6.10 Access: Fencing, 6.7 Water Supply: Trough.

Location: Duck Valley Indian Reservation, Owyhee County, Idaho and Elko County, Nevada.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation.

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to fund a project that will increase the critical riparian areas of the Owyhee River and its tributaries as well as preserve the numerous natural springs located on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation. The proposed activities are a continuation of work initiated in 1998. The work to be completed includes the protection of natural springs through fencing and the installation of water troughs for wildlife and domestic stocks. Exclusion fences will also be erected in critical headwater areas of streams in the Owyhee River system that have been observed to have spawning populations of trout. Protected riparian areas will be replanted with native trees, shrubs and grasses. The proposed fencing and planting will enhance trout habitat and increase the survival of juveniles.

This project will incorporate some water quality monitoring and fisheries data collection activities. The purpose for these activities is to determine where fish are spawning on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation. Once spawning areas are identified, exclusion fences will be erected and replanting will occur as necessary depending on the present conditions of the sites. Many of the proposed activities will be carried out in conjunction with the Owyhee schools such as the planting of trees and monitoring of water quality.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Vincent Pero with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes Duck Valley Indian Reservation and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

No plant or animal species listed under the Endangered Species Act will be affected by the activities proposed as part of this project. This information was verified by Selena Werdon at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Reno, Nevada office on May 3, 2001.

Cultural resource surveys were conducted by the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes Cultural Resource Department. In a letter dated April 30, 2001, Ted Howard, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes Cultural Resource Director, verified that no cultural or historic resources were discovered as a result of these inventories. The department will continue to work closely with the Tribes Fish and Game Office in order to ensure the protection of cultural resources that may be discovered in conjunction with this work in the future.

Public involvement associated with this project included public meetings with the Tribal Council and the public to discuss projects and status. In addition, newspaper articles concerning the project were published in the local papers and in the Boise, Idaho papers.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 7.6A.2, 7.6B.3, & 7.8E.1, of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and, 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Shannon C. Stewart 6-5-01

Shannon C. Stewart
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR: Thomas C. McKinney DATE: 6-5-01

Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist
Cultural Resource Survey Letter
ESA Letter

cc: (w/o attachments)

Guy Dodson – Shoshone-Paiute Tribes Duck Valley Indian Reservation